

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, TO
SUBJECT: COFFEE PRICES

REF: STATE 302391

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON LOCAL COFFEE PRICES IS IN RESPONSE REFTEL. THE INTERNAL PRODUCER PRICE OF COFFEE IN TOGO IS SET BY OPAT (TOGOLESE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING BOARD), AN ARM OF THE GOT. CURRENT PRODUCER PRICE IS SET AT .251 DOLLARS PER POUND FOR ROBUSTA NIAOULLI AND .291 DOLLARS PER POUND FOR ARABICA.

2. BECAUSE OF LIMITED PROCESSING CAPACITY ALMOST ALL TOGOLESE COFFEE PRODUCTION IS EXPORTED WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS. OPAT ANNUALLY SELLS APPROXIMATELY 1/2 TON TO LOCAL PROCESSORS A D 3 1/2 TO S THE ARMY AT A FIXED PRICE TF 10 0/0 HIGHER ANHE PRTD URERPRIIE.

3. OPAT IS THE ONLY EXPORTER OF COFFEE. OPAT OBTAINS THE WORLD MARKET PRICE FROM PARI MONTHLY AND BASES IS PRICE ON THAT AND HOA OPAT VIEWS THE MARKET, LAST SEASON PRICES WERE \$1.918 PER POUND \$1.927 PER POUND CIF. CURRENT EXPORT TAX LEVEL IS 20 0/0.

4. THE GOT OFFICIALLY ENCOURAGES INVESTMENT IN COFFEE THROUGH THE BTB (TOGOLESE DEVELOPMENT BANK) AND CNCA (CAISSE UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONAL DE CREDIT AGRICOLE) MAKES AVAILABLE EASY CREDIT FOR COFFEE FARMERS. THERE IS ALSO THE GOT SOCIETE DE RENOVATION DES CACAOYERES ET DES CAFEIERES (SRCC) WHICH IS WORKING WITH FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO PLANT MORE COFFEE AND MODERNIZE LARGE SCALE COFFEE PRODUCTION IN TOGO.

5. CURRENT RETAIL PRICE OF COFFEE IN LOCAL STORES IS \$1.55 PER POUND FOR ROASTED LOCAL BEANS AND \$1.80 PER POUND FOR ROASTED AND GROUND LOCAL COFFEE.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE OFFICIAL POLICY OF TRYING TO INCREASE COFFEE PRODUCTION, EFFECT OF ACTIONS IS ACTUALLY DISINCENTIVE TO FARMERS BECAUSE OF THE LOW PRICE AT WHICH THEY MUST SELL TO THE GOVT. PALMER

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